

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00  
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-08  
LAB-04 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10 /115 W  
-----103595 311845Z /53

O 311814Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2640  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ILO  
SUBJECT: STRUCTURAL REFORM OF ILO GOVERNING BODY

REF: (A) STATE 2383L; (B) GENEVA L299

L. EMBASSY JANUARY 30 INFORMED FOREIGN MINISTRY ILO  
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OFFICER, UN DIVISION, OF POINTS MADE IN REFTELS BY  
AMBASSADOR VANDEN HEUVEL AND DEPARTMENT STRESSING THE  
MAJOR GENERAL POINTS THAT EC-9 POSITION IN EFFECT WOULD  
PLACE IMEC AT A TACTICAL DISADVANTAGE AT BEGINNING OF  
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE G-77 AND THAT THE STRUCTURAL ISSUE  
OF THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE ORGANIZATION WAS OF  
CRITICAL IMPORTANCE AND WOULD BE ONE OF THE DECISIVE

FACTORS IN THE US EVALUATION OF THE ADVANTAGES OF RENEWE  
MEMBERSHIP IN THE ILO IN THE FUTURE.

2. FO OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR ILO CHARGED WITH DRAFTING  
INSTRUCTIONS (IN CONSULTATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOY-  
MENT) TO UK GENEVA DEL STATED THAT HMG HAD RECEIVED  
REPORT ON GENEVA IMEC MEETING BUT HAD NOT YET SENT  
DELEGATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR JANUARY 3L MEETING OTHER THAN  
TO REPORT BACK. HE STATED HOWEVER HMG POSITION AS IT NOW  
STOOD WAS TO GO ALONG WITH EC-9 PROPOSALS HAVING TAKEN  
ACCOUNT OF US VIEWS. HE EXPLAINED UK WOULD LIKE NOTHING  
BETTER THAN TO KEEP ILO GOVERNING BODY AS IS AND MAINTAIN  
BALANCE OF POWER WITH WESTERN INDUSTRIALIZED MEMBER STATE  
BUT HAD CONCLUDED THAT IN UK VIEW US NEGOTIATING POSITION  
HAD NO PROSPECTS OF ACCEPTANCE TO G-77 FOR OPENING  
NEGOTIATIONS. HE AGREED THAT THE EC-9 POSITION MAKES  
CONCESSIONS WHICH THE UK DOES NOT LIKE BUT BELIEVES ARE  
NECESSARY IF IMEC GROUP IS TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE G-77  
IT IS SERIOUS ABOUT OPENING A DIALOGUE. THE HMG VIEW,  
HE SAID, WAS THAT THE US POSITION HELD LITTLE AS BASIS  
FOR NEGOTIATION WITH THE G-77 AND COULD LEAD TO A HAR-  
DENING OF THE COMBINATION OF THE G-77 AND THE EASTERN  
EUROPEANS, AND LEAD TO "WORSE RESULTS", I.E. BY "PROVOK-  
ING EXCESSES" AT THE JUNE 1978 ILO CONFERENCE OR MOVES  
TOWARDS A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE.

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3. FO OFFICER POINTED OUT HMG COULD NOT PREDICT COURSE  
OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHERS OF THE NINE OR IMEC  
ALTHOUGH IT VIEWED NEGOTIATIONS ON STRUCTURE  
AS INVOLVING OTHER ISSUES E.G.  
PARTICULARLY THE RESTORATION OF THE INTEGRITY OF THE  
COMPLIANCE MACHINERY AND THE ENFORCEMENT BY THE ILO OF  
THE PRINCIPLE OF DUE PROCESS. UK, HE SAID, WOULD NEED  
TO REACT TO WHATEVER CAME OUT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. UK  
DID NOT EXPECT TO NEGOTIATE SHARP REDUCTION OF AFRICAN  
CONTINGENT NOR ENVISAGE THE CREATION OF A SEPARATE  
EASTERN EUROPEAN REGION. HE IMPLIED THAT SINCE HMG HAD  
NO INTENTION OF LEAVING ILO AT THIS POINT, UK WAS CONCER-  
NED WITH PRESERVING ITS OWN SEAT ON THE GOVERNING BODY  
AND THAT BASIC STRATEGY WAS THAT EC-9 OR IMEC COUNTRIES  
SHOULD SEEK TO BROADEN BASE BY DRAWING OFF SUPPORT FROM  
RANKS OF THE G-77. IF THE G-77 DEMANDS, HE SAID, BECOME  
SO HIGH THAT THERE WAS NO PROSPECT OF A "SENSIBLE AGREE-  
MENT" (THE BREAKING POINTS OF WHICH HE DID NOT DEFINE)  
THE UK WOULD NOT PROCEED FURTHER WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. THE HMG POSITION, WE UNDERSTAND, HAS BEEN FORMULATED  
NOTWITHSTANDING TUC REPRESENTATIONS WHICH RAISED QUES-

TIONS ABOUT TACTICAL WISDOM OF MAKING CONCESSIONS ON  
STRUCTURE WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT TITULAR MEMBERS WOULD GET  
IN RETURN. THE TUC WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT ANY  
CONCESSIONS ON STRUCTURE SHOULD BE PACKAGED WITH ASSUR-  
ANCES ON DUE PROCESS AND ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVEN-  
TIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS. TUC POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS  
TELL US THEY ARE "VERY DISTURBED" ABOUT EC-9 PROPOSALS,  
BUT APPARENTLY GOVERNMENT IS GOING ITS OWN WAY TO ATTEMPT  
REACHING SOME SETTLEMENT WITH THE G-77 BY THE JUNE L978

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INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
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LAB-04 SIL-01 AF-10 ARA-10 NEA-10 /115 W  
-----103631 311845Z /53

O 311814Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2641

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

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CONFERENCE PRESUMABLY IN THE BELIEF THAT THE IMEC  
BARGAINING POSITION BY THE JUNE 1979 CONFERENCE WILL BE  
EVEN WEAKER.

5. CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRIES (CBI) APPARENTLY  
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HAS NOT BEEN CONSULTED ON THE EC-9 PROPOSALS BUT CBI  
SOURCES INFORM THAT CBI POSITION IS TO RETAIN PRESENT  
STRUCTURE PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES  
OF IMPOSITION OF EASTERN EUROPEANS ON EMPLOYER GROUP, AN  
THAT HMG IS AWARE OF CBI VIEWS.

6. POSTSCRIPT: SINCE FOREGOING DRAFTED TUC POLICY LEVEL  
OFFICIALS ADVISE THAT FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS BY THEM  
YESTERDAY REINFORCED BY US GOVERNMENT DEMARCHE HAD  
TEMPORARILY BLOCKED DESPATCH OF INSTRUCTIONS TO UK IMEC  
DEL AND CAUSED REVISIONS TO MAKE EC-9 PROPOSAL CONDITIONA  
ON SOLUTIONS TO OTHER ILO ISSUES. TUC HAD BEEN URGING  
QUESTION OF STRUCTURAL CHANGES BE SET ASIDE IN FAVOR OF  
INITIALLY NEGOTIATING ON QUESTIONS OF COMPLIANCE WITH  
CONVENTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND DUE PROCESS. FO ILO  
OFFICER, LATE THIS AFTERNOON, CALLED TO INFORM EMBASSY  
UK DEL, ON BASIS OF TELEPHONE REPORT FROM GENEVA ON IMEC  
MEETING, HAS NOW BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WIT  
PROPOSED LETTER FROM CANADIAN CHAIRMAN OF IMEC, IN  
CONTEXT EC-9 PROPOSAL CONCERNING ARTICLE 7 "WILL BE  
MAINTAINED ONLY IF SATISFACTORY SOLUTIONS ARE FOUND" TO  
QUESTIONS INVOLVING ARTICLE 36 OF THE CONSTITUTION;  
ARTICLE 17 OF THE STANDING ORDERS AND THE QUORUM RULE;  
ALSO FO SPOKESMAN STRESSED THAT EC-9 PROPOSAL "COVERS  
ONLY GOVERNMENT ELEMENT OF GOVERNING BODY AND THAT  
EMPLOYER AND WORKER GROUPS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE  
AUTONOMY TO WHICH THEY ARE ENTITLED SHOULD DECIDE FOR  
THEMSELVES WHAT KIND OF SOLUTIONS THEY MAY FIND  
APPROPRIATE."

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 5a19c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 2383, 78 GENEVA 299  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3739624  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STRUCTURAL REFORM OF ILO GOVERNING BODY  
**TAGS:** ELAB, PORG, US, ILO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5a19c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014